

Rules and Regulations Relating to Goats

- Florida requires that all goats involved in travel or commerce (of any kind) be identified according to the Scrapie Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules (APHIS 91-55-066, State Rule 5C-29).
- To bring goats into Florida, goats must have a health certificate and individual identification. (State Rule 5C-3).
- A health certificate and individual identification is required for all goats presented for exhibition (State rules 5C-4 and 5C-29).



For more information on Florida's sheep industry, contact:

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GOATS IN FLORIDA

TODAY'S GROWING MARKET



**Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services**

Today's Growing Market

A change in Florida's ethnic mix, with many of our newer citizens arriving from countries where goat meat is a normal part of their daily diet, has led to a rise in its demand. Florida's goat industry is determined to meet the needs of this fast-growing segment of the population. Despite the fact that goat meat (known as Chevon or Cabrito) and other by-products (such as milk and cheese) are consumed by over a third of the world's population, it is not common in the United States.

Though not routinely found in our grocery stores or meat markets, goods derived from goats are quickly becoming a most sought-after product. Health-conscious people looking for options to cow's milk recognized long ago the benefits of goat's milk. Goat hair (in the form of Mohair and Angora) has been used for clothes for hundreds of years. Still, very few Americans ever thought of eating goat meat. The desire for more products to meet the cultural and religious needs of this growing segment of our society has led to a rise in the number of goats produced by Florida's small and limited resource farmers. Realizing that, they began incorporating

incorporating goats into their existing family farms to supplement their income. This shift began in the 1980s and has gradually, but persistently, taken hold. During the 1990s, goat production became one of the fastest-growing livestock enterprises in the nation. A national survey taken in January 2005 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture put Florida in the top 25 states for the production of goats used primarily for milk. Florida now ranks in the top 10 of those same states in terms of goats raised for meat.

Supported by the agricultural programs at Florida A&M University and the University of Florida, producer groups are being formed and local markets established to better serve the community at large. Through their research efforts, producer training meetings, and with the success of the first National Goat Conference in the fall of 2010, Florida is becoming the leader in creating Best Management Practices and standards that are being adopted nationwide.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is fostering a climate of training, education, and knowledge. Through the National Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program, membership on the state's Animal Industry Technical Council, and other

initiatives, the State is actively working on some of the major health issues affecting the industry. The increasing interest from consumers for this new taste experience will drive the market to new heights and Florida's goat enterprises will continue to grow. Florida, with its growing ethnic population and ever-increasing interest from mainstream consumers, will continue to keep pace with consumer preferences.

Interesting Facts About Goats

- Worldwide, more people eat goat meat and drink goat milk than cattle, sheep, or pigs combined.
- Contrary to popular opinion, goats will not eat tin cans and are in fact finicky eaters.
- Both male and female goats can have beards.
- Goats were once used as currency.
- The effects of coffee were discovered when goat herders noticed animals behaving more energetically after eating the plant.
- Florida is in the top 5 of states in the Southeast U.S. in the production of goats raised for meat.

